

**Children's Justice Act Committee**  
**Staffed by the Governor's Office of Crime Control and Prevention**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
**January 26, 2017**  
**Governor's Office of Crime Control and Prevention**  
**100 Community Place**  
**2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, Room 2.610**  
**Crownsville, MD 21032**  
**1:00 pm- 3:00 pm**

**Participating Members:**

Arnold Eby, Chair, Maryland Foster Parent Association (phone)  
Mark Acosta, The Coordinating Center (phone)  
Donine Carrington, Prince George's County State's Attorney's Office  
Michelle Chudow, M.D., FAAP, Baltimore County Department of Social Services  
Judge Kathleen Gallogly Cox, Circuit Court for Baltimore County  
Charlene Dukes, Office of the Public Defender (phone)  
Dr. Kerry Hannan, Baltimore Child Abuse Center  
Vernice McKee, Department of Human Resources  
Det. Thomas Pyles, Annapolis Police Department  
Diane Shaffer, Talbot County Department of Social Services  
Joan L. Stine, State Council on Child Abuse and Neglect  
Krista Trahan, Baltimore County Department of Social Services  
Lt. Glen Wiedeck, Baltimore County Police Department

**Staff:**

Rebecca Allyn, Juvenile Justice and Victim Services Program Assistant, Governor's Office of Crime Control and Prevention  
Jessica Wheeler, Senior Director of Juvenile Justice & Victim Services, Governor's Office of Crime Control and Prevention  
Sabraya Knight, Juvenile Justice and Victim Services Intern, Governor's Office of Crime Control and Prevention

**I. Welcome, Introductions, and Chair's Remarks**

The meeting was called to order at 1:00 p.m. Members and staff introduced themselves.

**II. Approval of Minutes**

Diane Shaffer made a motion to approve the minutes. Mark Acosta seconded the motion. All were in favor and the minutes were approved.

**III. Review of 2015 Three-Year Assessment Goals, Objectives, and Recommendations**

Ms. Wheeler stated that the goal of the Children's Justice Act Committee is to examine the response of the child welfare system towards child abuse and neglect and determine if the best policies and practices are in place.

Ms. Wheeler briefed participants on the objectives, goals, and recommendations contained in the Committee's 2015 Three Year Assessment. Ms. Wheeler informed members that the Governor's Office of Crime Control & Prevention is taking a strategic approach for victim services and the Committee will need to be involved in this process. The Three-Year Assessment serves as a foundation to the Committee's strategic plan and the next step will be to develop action steps. The next Three-Year Assessment is due in May 2018. Ms. Wheeler will coordinate a conference call before the next full meeting to discuss next steps for the strategic plan.

#### IV. Updates

- *Maryland State Board of Victim Services Retreat*

The Governor's Office of Crime Control & Prevention provides staff support to the Maryland State Board of Victim Services. Historically, this board has focused on sexual assault, domestic violence, and victim service providers. The Board recently conducted a retreat to identify their priorities moving forward. At the retreat, Arnold Eby, Chair of the Committee, provided an overview of the Children's Justice Act federal mandate and some of the priority areas of the Committee. The goal is to encourage future collaboration amongst the boards and councils staffed by the Governor's Office of Crime Control & Prevention to ensure a comprehensive statewide strategic plan for all victims.

- *Child First Survey*

Ms. Wheeler provided members with the Child First survey results. As a reminder, there were two surveys conducted. The first was targeted at those currently attending the training in October and was given on their first day of training. The second survey was disseminated to those that have taken the training over the past 3 years. One of the goals of the survey was to identify whether the target audience (i.e. those who conduct forensic interviews) are attending. Another goal was to identify whether there is still a greater need for the entry level Child First training or if advanced training is needed.

Overall, Committee members expressed that for some, the training is working very well as is. For others, there is a need for an advanced training to receive updates on new practices that have been released. The Committee will continue to monitor the training to ensure it is meeting the needs of the Child Advocacy Centers.

Additionally, Judge Cox inquired as to whether there is training available for judges who hear child welfare cases on the best practices for forensic interviewing. Members discussed options for delivering this training such as the annual Child Abuse, Neglect, and Delinquency Options (CANDO) Conference. Dr. Hannan, Dr. Chudow, Judge Cox, and Donine Carrington agreed to serve on a workgroup to develop this training and a conference call will be coordinated prior to the next full Committee meeting.

- *Child Advocacy Center Best Practices Workgroup*

Diane Shaffer briefed the participants on the Child Advocacy Center Best Practices Workgroup, which has convened since November 2015, to ensure the implementation of best practices and accreditation standards for all of Maryland's Child Advocacy Centers. Ms. Wheeler reminded members that the Governor's Office of Crime Control & Prevention is prioritizing grant funding based on accreditation.

- *State Council on Child Abuse and Neglect (SCCAN)*

Joan Stine stated that there will be a focus on better policies in schools for addressing child sexual abuse. To accomplish this, the Council is meeting with the State Parent Teacher Association (PTA) for a possible collaboration. Ms. Stine stated that the Council has also been actively working with the Baltimore City Child Fatality Review Team to ensure that national best practices are being implemented, especially around the need to address Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs).

- *CJAC Membership*

Dr. Hannan welcomed three new members to the Children's Justice Act Committee:

- Michelle Chudow, M.D., FAAP, Baltimore County Crimes Against Children Unit
- Donine Carrington, Esq. of the Prince George's County State's Attorney's Office
- Detective Thomas Pyles of the Annapolis Police Department

Additionally, Ms. Stine was recently re-appointed to serve her second term on the Committee.

## **V. Old/New Business**

A scheduling change was made and the Committee meeting scheduled for September 21, 2017 has been rescheduled to September 14, 2017 from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. It was decided that the meeting locations will change to accommodate all members. The location for this meeting will be sent out prior to the meeting. The July 20, 2017 meeting for the Grant Review Session may be moved to another date pending results of a doodle poll to be disseminated.

## **VI. Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 2:22 pm.

**Follow-Up Items:**

- Ms. Wheeler will coordinate a conference call before the next full meeting to discuss next steps for the strategic plan.
- Ms. Wheeler will coordinate a conference call before the next full meeting to discuss training for judges.
- A doodle poll will be disseminated to choose a date for the Grant Review Session.

**Next Meeting**

March 16, 2017

1:00 pm - 3:00 pm

Location: Howard County Library System, Miller Branch, Patapsco Room, 9421 Frederick Road, Ellicott City, MD 21042